

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
STATEMENT REGARDING ATTACK ON CIVILIANS IN SARAJEVO
MUNICH, GERMANY
FEBRUARY 6, 1994

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE OUTRAGE OF THE WORLD AT THIS DELIBERATE ATTACK ON INNOCENT PEOPLE IN SARAJEVO. THERE CAN BE NO POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS ATTACK AGAINST A MARKET PLACE WHERE WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN WERE SEEKING TO PURCHASE THE BARE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. LAST NIGHT PRESIDENT CLINTON SPOKE FOR ALL AMERICANS IN EXPRESSING OUR REVULSION AND ANGER AT THIS COWARDLY ACT.

I AM LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON AND TO ASSESS WHAT FURTHER ACTIONS WE SHOULD TAKE. IN THE MEAN TIME WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH OUR ALLIES AND WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.

A US MILITARY MEDICAL ASSESSMENT TEAM HAS ARRIVED IN SARAJEVO. WE HAVE MEDICAL EVACUATION PLANES WITH FULLY EQUIPPED TEAMS STANDING BY IF NECESSARY.

THIS UNFORGIVABLE INCIDENT DEMONSTRATES THE NEED TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. THE BLOODSHED MUST COME TO AN END AND THE MADNESS MUST END. IT IS TIME FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERS AMONG THE FACTIONS TO STEP FORWARD AND BE COUNTED. IT IS TIME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO STAND TOGETHER AND BRING THE MAXIMUM PRESSURE TO BEAR.

THE SITUATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ONE OF THE DANGERS THAT FACE US IN THIS NEW POST-COLD WAR ERA. IT IS ONLY AN EXAMPLE OF LARGER ETHNIC-BASED CONFLICTS THAT COULD RAGE IF WE DO NOT CAREFULLY MANAGE THE INTEGRATION OF RUSSIA AND THE COUNTRIES FORMERLY HELD UNDER THE SWAY OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE INTO THE NEW EUROPE. IN THAT EFFORT, NATO MUST PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE.